

VZCZCXRO1915  
OO RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHLH RUEHPW  
DE RUEHNE #3007 1230740  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 030740Z MAY 06  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3270  
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1761  
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 5023  
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 5054  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 8017  
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL 2794  
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 5714  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 9647  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 8140  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3193  
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL CALCUTTA 3520  
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 3417  
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI 3650  
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE 2513  
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI 2686  
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR 3169  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUEIDN/DNI WASHINGTON DC  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0482  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 2739  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 003007

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR INR/B

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/11/2016

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [KDEM](#) [UNGA](#) [KUNR](#) [PINR](#) [IN](#)

SUBJECT: GOI SHARES ITS SELECTION CRITERIA FOR NEXT UNSYG

Classified By: DCM Robert Blake, Jr. for Reasons 1.4 (B, D)

11. (C) In a May 2 meeting with PolCouns and Poloff, MEA Joint Secretary (United Nations/Political) Sanjiv Arora shared the GOI's thinking on who it will support as the next UN Secretary-General. Avoiding commenting on any declared or stealth candidates (including UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information Shashi Tharoor), Arora listed the several qualities the GOI will look for in the candidate it chooses to support:

- A candidate from an Asian country
- "Impeccable" credentials in terms of probity and reputation
- Evinces a focus on developing countries
- Is "up to the challenge" of UN reform

12. (C) Arora reported that the Asian and African UN caucuses support that the next UNSYG should be an Asian candidate -- he noted that U Thant (1961-1971) was the last Asian UNSYG. He underlined that the GOI is interested in ensuring the position goes to a candidate that fits the criteria, and not to any specific person who has (or has not yet) expressed interest.

13. (C) PolCouns queried Arora if the GOI had any interest in the candidacy of wunderkind/best-selling author Tharoor who recently visited Delhi for a literary conference. Arora noted that the London-born Tharoor -- who has logged almost 30 years at the UN -- "retains his Indian passport" (and therefore meets at least the first GOI requirement), but he was clearly not as yet invested in Tharoor as a potential candidate. He added that "When we (at MEA) discuss candidates, we discuss the declared candidates," suggesting that Tharoor had not been ruled out as a prospect. Arora

also remarked that Tharoor speaks French, "an unwritten requirement for the position." While underplaying that Tharoor had spoken to his many GOI friends during his recent visit to Delhi, Arora gave no hint that MEA was pushing him as a candidate.

¶4. (U) Visit New Delhi's Classified Website:  
(<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/sa/newdelhi/>)  
MULFORD